"Experience has yet to show us how far the early and persevering use of the solution of Calabar bean may avail in restoring contraction, or, at least, in preventing excessive dilatation. It is true that such cases are frequently accompanied by, and complicated with, retinal detachment and extravasation, but the dilatation has been found to be very lasting and extremely annoying.

"Mr. White Cooper has recorded three interesting cases of this accident in the *Association Journal* for 1855. The only palliation hitherto discovered has been the use of an artificial diaphragm, consisting of a spectacle frame fitted with an opaque plate, and containing an aperture corresponding to the pupil, either circular or a mere transverse slit.

"Experience alone will prove the value of the solution of the Calabar bean in such cases, but it is certainly well worth trying. The cases I have recorded in this paper have proved its power in the treatment of unilocular mydriasis."

37. *Atropia Points.*—Mr. J. Z. LAURENCE has lately had made pencils or points impregnated with atropia which he says recommend themselves by their simplicity and portability. These atropia points are like nitrate of silver ones, adaptable into wooden holders, and may be carried in the waistcoat pocket. If one of these be lightly pressed once or twice over the conjunctiva of the lower eyelid a sufficient quantity of atropia is washed off to dilate the pupil.—*Ophthalmic Review*, Jan. 1866.

MIDWIFERY.

38. *Use of the Wire-Ribbon in some Cases of Difficult Turning.*—Dr. HEYERDAHL, of Bergen, communicated to the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society a paper on this subject. He states that he was attending in the country a case of transverse presentation which had gone on for a considerable time unrelieved—the waters had flowed away two days before. "The pains had been rather energetic for the last twelve hours, with strong bearing down. I found the left shoulder presenting low down in the vagina, and considerably swollen; the uterus and os firmly embracing the fœtus. The fœtal heart was heard indistinctly about the umbilicus. I put the woman—a strong primipara at the term of gestation—under the influence of chloroform, and proceeded to turn. It was impossible to push the bulk of my hand into the uterine cavity, although the bearing-down pains were very much lessened; but with two fingers within the os I reached and got hold of one foot, aiding this purchase by forcing the pelvic extremity of the fœtus lower down with the other hand. So far I succeeded; but I soon found that I wanted strength enough in my finger to bring the foot farther down than to the brim, the foot being in such a degree slippery that I lost my purchase every time I tried to pull down. At the same time it was impossible to raise the presenting shoulder up to get a little more room. I tried in vain to bring up a tape round the ankle. I failed repeatedly on account of the looseness of the tape, moistened in the discharges from the vagina."

It occurred to him to try wire-ribbon used by milliners to shape bonnets.

"I took," he says, "about a yard of wire-ribbon, half an inch broad, doubled it up, and formed it into a running noose. I made the loop a little elongated, and large enough to slip a foot through, and twisted the free ends a little to give them more stiffness. I now succeeded in sliding the well-oiled running noose of wire-ribbon up to the foot, and to get a firm hold of it, and then, by moderately pulling on the foot, securely grasped in this manner, and at the same time pushing the presenting shoulder upwards with the other hand introduced into the vagina, I was fortunate enough to turn in no time. Soon after, the child was born by nature alone, with the exception of a little manual force to extract the head. The child was dead; but the patient did well, according to the report given me two days thereafter.

"This case is, I think, of some interest for the practitioner, because it proves that the difficulty of grasping the foot high up in the vagina by a running noose of tape—sometimes baffling our best endeavours—may be overcome without instrument in so simple a manner, namely, only by substituting the material commonly used, tape, by another equally simple material, wire-ribbon, to be procured wherever bonnets are worn.

"Of course the method of applying wire-ribbon may be modified in different ways; for instance, by doubling the wire-ribbon, then twisting it in its whole length, only the uppermost portion being left untwisted and forming a loop. To the other end is fixed a handle, made of a small piece of wood. This little apparatus is used in the same manner; the only difference is, that the loop is tightened by augmenting the number of twistings by turning the handle. The material possesses this quality, that the twistings, once made, do not untwist again, and thus the foot is securely and firmly grasped.

"But I am inclined to think that the method put into execution in my case is perhaps the simplest, and, therefore, also the best.

"Should the stem of the running noose give too much during its introduction, this inconvenience may be remedied by using a small surgical forceps to introduce it with.

"There is one drawback to its use: wire-ribbon is sharper and more apt to cut than common tape, and I was obliged to protect my hand by means of a handkerchief. Around the ankle of the child was left a deep furrow, but it had not cut through the skin.

"By applying the wire-ribbon running noose to the feet of the dead body of the child, I was not able to cut through, although I purposely used much more force, and for longer time, than advisable in any circumstance connected with the operation of turning a living child.

"If instruments can be dispensed with, it may be a step in advance in the technosis of turning, and worthy the notice of the profession."—*Edinburgh Med. Journ.*, January, 1866.

39. *Influence of Chlorate of Potash on the Life of the Fœtus in Utero.*—Dr. Bruce read before the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society a paper on this subject, and read accounts of six cases in which he had used that article with a view of prolonging the life of the fœtus.

These, he says, "are all the cases I can refer to at present, and they are much too few to draw any satisfactory conclusions from; but I think they are interesting, in so far as some of them, under the use of the chlorate of potash, ended so much more satisfactorily than they had ever done before, where some had become mothers of healthy children, which a succession of previous miscarriages had well-nigh made them despair of. How far these cases may have been influenced by the remedy employed I will not venture to say, but the result of the practice appears to me to be of an encouraging nature; and in any other cases of the kind which may come in my way, I shall feel strongly inclined to follow out a similar treatment."

Dr. And. Inglis said he had never seen the chlorate of potash fail. Even in one case, where, after sixteen still-born children, the seventeenth was born alive.

Dr. Sidey thought it was always useful.

Dr. Cairns mentioned a case where a woman had aborted five times, but after the use of this medicine she carried her sixth child to the eighth month.

Dr. Moir stated that he had used chlorate of potash in very many cases, and thought it did good.

Dr. Keiller remarked that he had very frequently administered chlorate of potash, for the purpose of preserving the life of the child in utero until the period of its viability, if not to the full time, and his experience led him to continue the practice. It was a matter very difficult to determine whether any undoubted evidence existed to prove that the mother's blood was oxygenated by the use of the chlorate of potash to the extent of acting on the placental structures, or their circulating fluids, so as to influence in any degree the vitality of the child. It might be as he (Dr. K.) had, on former occasions when this matter was before the Society, hinted at, that the health of the mother happened to be in better condition on the particular occasion when a living child was born, or that the patient's health was benefited by the alterative or tonic influence of the salt